WHAT HAS THE PANDEMIC SHOWED US?

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It has been more than a year since the pandemic hit the world and placed it on its knees. As for the Department of Education, in reference to Dr. Fronda’s 2020 End of School Year Speech the whole school year 2020 – 2021 was marked in history as the most trying times in education since World War II. But what has the pandemic showed us as teachers, as students, as parents and as community?

There are always two sides of the same coin. Some would view the pandemic as a crisis that made living too harsh and too hard to survive. Well, it’s a normal observation since the news would regularly show how people are suffering, how the economy is falling and how society is deteriorating, all due to the widespread of the virus COVID-19. Schools had to close which leads to the loss of jobs for some school personnel and the loss of income for private schools. Teachers had to hurdle tedious and many taxing tasks of preparing for the new normal in education. With virtual training over training schedules overlapping and not to mention the mental health status. Students had their fair share of suffering due to the sudden adjustments they had to deal with transferring from in-face traditional learning to personal space remote learning. Parents also clamored on the notion of bearing the bigger chunk of responsibility of monitoring and tutoring their children while learning at home. The community had to dole out more than the usual efforts in support of the school and the students. Aside from the community-based problems, additional burden was shouldered when education had to be a shared responsibility. All of these, among all others, constitutes the negative effects of the pandemic. On the other hand, these are not the only effects that the COVID-19 brought to the table. As some would view the situation as a menace, there are those that saw the good and positive side of the crisis.
Schools saw the potential to develop new ways and means of delivering education. No longer are schools tied to pen and paper test. This leads to wider opportunities to reach students who are not capable of going to schools on a regular basis. Teachers saw how much potential they had in crafting, adapting and adopting to new trends in the teaching profession. They had the chance to explore options which they never thought possible. Students also share the same sentiments. They proved to themselves that they are capable of coping with the ever-changing world. That they are capable of surviving in their own respective rights, accomplishments and capabilities. Parents were given a glimpse on how important education and a clear idea on how their children are fairing out when they were once reporting to schools during pre-pandemic. The community showed that they are very much willing to make an extra sacrifice for the benefit of the children-the students of the new normal era.

All of these also showed how much the Filipino is resilient to challenges that has come, is coming and will come. The faith, commitment and dedication of the Filipino society, as a whole was proved to be a beacon of hope to cling on to and a source of inspiration to see the future as bright as it could be.

References: